

LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer Of Health

for the year

1961



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

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R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

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G.S. Banks, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

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Miss E.A. Foster (Now Mrs. Dyke).

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LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the
year ending 31st December, 1961.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Report on the Health of your District for the year 1961.

The Birth-rate, standardised for the district was 17.78, a figure slightly higher than the figure for England and Wales, but slightly lower than that for the County of Salop which was 18.10. The figure of 17.78 however is an improvement on that for 1960 which was rather low at 15.09.

The Death-rate standardised for the district was 10.11 against a figure of 9.09 for 1960. The Death-rate for England and Wales was 12.00 and for the County of Salop 11.66. The District-rate therefore compares very favourably.

Measles was prevalent in the district during the year with the result that 330 notifications of Infectious Disease were received against a total of 65 in 1960. Only 7 notifications of Scarlet Fever were received during the year. I do not believe that this figure reflects the number of cases which occurred but rather indicates the very minor character of the illness in recent years, where any rash is so transitory that it is overlooked, being looked upon as simple sore throats leading to cases.

During the year good progress has been made with the various water schemes being undertaken by the Council. These should in due course lead to a stabilising of the population as it will be noted that in spite of a high birth rate and a low death rate, the population tends to diminish, which indicates a trend in movement of the population out of the Rural Area. Given water, and subsequently where are practicable, sewerage facilities, in other words the basic amenities of life today, the drift away from the Rural Areas may stop, particularly if improvements in housing follow the provision of the basic amenities.

From a study of the section which deals with Housing Conditions on page 17 of this report, it will be appreciated that there is scope for considerable improvement. Improvement grants help materially in this direction and there is a real place for them, but I believe that many houses are improved by means of grants which would have been far better replaced by new houses. I feel that where there is a doubt as to whether a sub-standard house justifies improving but it would qualify for the maximum grant if improved, the Law should be amended to give the owner the opportunity of receiving an equal amount of grant towards the cost of a new house if, instead of patching up the old, he elected to demolish and rebuild. Such a course would surely be good long term economy in the country as a whole.

My thanks are due to Mr. Saunders and the staff of the Health Department for their willing help at all times, and for providing most of Section C of this Report, and to Mr. Shaw for providing information on the position of the Water Supply Schemes at 31st December, being the remainder of Section C; and to the County Medical Officer of Health for allowing me to publish the information in Section B.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM HALL

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

GENERAL AND LOCAL STATISTICS.

1961.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

Birth-rate	17.4
Still Birth-rate	18.7
Infant Mortality Rate	21.4
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	15.5
Perinatal Mortality Rate	32.2
Death-rate	12.0

VITAL STATISTICS FOR COUNTY OF SALOP.

Birth-rate (Standardised)	18.10
Still birth Rate	21.36
Infant Mortality Rate	22.11
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	15.90
Perinatal Mortality Rate	34.36
Death-rate (Standardised)	11.66

STATISTICS FOR LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT.

Area (in acres)	112,823
Registrar-General's estimate of the population (mid 1961)	13,390
Number of inhabitable houses at 31.12.61	4,320
Rateable Value of the District	£116,550
Estimated product of 1d. Rate	£455

<u>Live Births:</u>	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	112	88	200
Illegitimate	2	5	7
	<u>114</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>207</u>

Illegitimate live Births as % of
Total live Births = 3.4%

Live Birth-rate per 1,000 of the
population = Crude 15.46
= Standardised 17.78

<u>Still Births:</u>	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>

Still Birth-rate per 1,000 total births = 23.56

<u>Deaths of Infants</u> under one year of age	Number of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
(a) All infants per 1,000 total livebirths	1	4.83
(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	1	5.00
(c) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	-	-
(d) Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks	1	4.83
(e) Deaths of Infants under 1 week	1	4.83
(f) Perinatal Mortality Rate	28.30	per 1,000 total live and stillbirths

Maternal Mortality:- NIL.

	M.	F.	Total
<u>Deaths</u>	78	66	144
Death rate per 1,000 of the population = Crude	10.75		
	Standardised	10.11	

Population:

The Registrar-General's estimated figure of the population in the Rural District at the 30th June, 1961 was 13,390. This was 250 less than the estimated figure for the previous year.

Births:

Live births numbered 207 (Legitimate - 200, Illegitimate - 7) giving a 'Crude' birthrate of 15.46. Applying the comparability factor of 1.15 the corrected birth rate becomes 17.78.

Still Births:

There were five still births and this gives a still birth rate of 23.56 against the rate for the Country as a whole which is 18.87. The figures upon which the still birth-rate is calculated are so small that the rate has little significance especially when regard is paid to the following paragraph.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

One death was reported of a child under the age of one year. The Infantile Mortality Rate is therefore, 4.83. The Infantile Mortality Rate for the Country is 21.4.

Deaths:

The total number of deaths registered was 144 (male 78, female 66), an increase of 10 on the previous year. This gives a 'Crude' Death-rate of 10.75 when the comparability factor of 0.94 is applied the comparable death rate becomes 10.11. Figures showing the chief causes of deaths will be found at the end of the Report.

Natural Increase of Population.

The number of live births exceeds the total number of deaths by 63.

SECTION B.

Personal Health Services.

These Services are provided by the County Council under the authority of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Care of Mothers and Young Children:

(a) Child Welfare Centres.

Child Welfare Centres are provided in Ludlow and Cleobury Mortimer and are held as follows:-

Cliftonville, Dinham, Ludlow.	:	Every Monday.
East Hamlet Hall, Ludlow.	:	Every Thursday.
Parish Hall, Cleobury Mortimer	:	1st and 3rd Wednesdays in each month.

Attendances at these Welfare Centres during 1961 were as follows:-

Welfare Centre	Made first attendance when under 1 year	Total Cases	Total Attendances
Ludlow (Dinham)	93	212	1,159
Ludlow (East Hamlet)	41	85	554
Cleobury Mortimer	37	140	895

An ante-natal clinic is also held at the Ludlow Child Welfare Centre every Monday, being conducted by one of the County Council's Assistant Medical Officers. The Ludlow District Nurse-Midwives hold their own ante-natal clinic at the Centre on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons each month.

It is impossible to give any indication in the table above of how many of the children attending the Ludlow Centre are children from the Rural District, and one must assume that the majority are from the Borough.

(b) Care of Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children.

A Moral Welfare Worker employed by the Hereford Diocesan Association to whom an annual grant is paid by the County Council, is based in Ludlow and works throughout the Rural District. The Worker concerned is Miss G. Leslie of 17, Steventon New Road, Ludlow. (Tel. No. Ludlow 257).

The County Council also makes substantial grants to two Mother and Baby Homes affiliated to the Lichfield Diocese, but within the County, to which cases from any County District may be admitted.

The County Council has contractual arrangements with Herefordshire for the admission of cases to the Hereford Mother and Baby Home.

(c) Distribution of Welfare Foods.

People living in Ludlow Rural District normally obtain National Welfare Foods (National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Codliver Oil and Vitamin Tablets) at the County Councils Welfare Centre, Dinham, Ludlow on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday mornings. For those people living some distance from Ludlow arrangements exist whereby National Welfare Foods are distributed by Voluntary Workers from Distribution points in the following districts:- Cleo Hill, Cleo St. Margaret, Cleobury Mortimer, Craven Arms and Munslow.

Midwifery.

The County Council employ a total of eleven midwives in the Ludlow Rural District.

and two of this number also operate in the Borough. Throughout the whole area they undertake district nursing as well as midwifery duties.

The following table gives details of the midwifery work carried out by these midwives during 1961:-

Nursing District	Total Confinements	Total Domiciliary Visits	Attendances on Discharged Institutional Cases	
			Cases	Visits
Burford	9	234	4	20
Church Stretton	24	659	22	76
Clee Hill*	13	292	3	6
Cleobury Mortimer	17	469	24	66
Craven Arms	19	503	9	53
Ludlow	37	973	27	138
Munslow	12	347	9	39
Stoke St. Milborough	9	245	7	40

(*Covered by Nurse for Burford Area).

The Nursing Districts comprising groups of parishes, do not conform to the Rural District Boundary and the figures given above therefore in some cases (Church Stretton and Ludlow) will include many cases from outside the Ludlow Rural District.

Health Visiting.

Two full-time Health Visitors are employed by the County Council in the Ludlow Rural District and one of these (Miss G.L. Ward) who is based in Ludlow also undertakes health visiting in the Borough.

Home Nursing.

As stated above the midwives employed by the County Council in the Rural District undertake the home nursing duties.

Only in the Borough of Ludlow itself does the County Council employ a Home Nurse solely to undertake these duties.

Cases attended and visits made during 1961 were as follows:-

Nursing District	Home Nursing Cases	Visits
Burford	29	510
Church Stretton	369	5787
Clee Hill*	28	753
Cleobury Mortimer	94	1566
Craven Arms	103	2181
Ludlow	132	3593
Munslow	56	651
Stoke St. Milborough	43	1019

(* Covered by Nurse for Burford Area).

Vaccination and Immunisation.

Protection is offered, in particular to pre-school children, school children and in special circumstances to others, against Smallpox, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis and to children of and above the age of thirteen years against Tuberculosis.

The immunisation procedure is carried out in many cases by General Medical Practitioners, and by School Medical Officers in Clinics and Schools.

The tables below give the numbers of children from the Rural District who have availed themselves of the facilities offered.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.
1961.

		County Council Medical Officers	General Practitioners	Totals
Diphtheria	Primary	51	168	219
	Boosters	53	123	176
Whooping Cough				
Primary		36	163	199
Smallpox	Performed	40	152	192
	Successful	30	133	163
Tetanus				
Primary		7	189	196
Poliomyelitis	1st & 2nd Injections	478	290	768
	3rd Injections	410	203	613
	4th Injections	1113	75	1188

B.C.G. VACCINATION - 1961.

SCHOOL	CONSENT FORMS GIVEN OUT	REFUSALS	NUMBER OF CONSENTS PRESENTED	NUMBER OF CHILDREN SKIN TESTED	SKIN TEST READINGS		NUMBER VACCINATED
					POS.	NEG.	
Stokesay	72	2	70	59	5	50	50
Diddlebury	8	1	7	6	1	5	5
Munslow	2	-	2	2	-	2	2
Millichope	5	-	5	5	1	4	4
Culmington Hill House	4	1	3	3	-	3	3
Onibury	6	-	6	5	-	5	5

Ambulance Service.

The Central Ambulance Station is in Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury (Tel. No. Shrewsbury 6331).

There is a local Ambulance Depot in Ludlow where three ambulances and one dual purpose vehicle are based.

Drivers are on call and can be called out at any time during the day or night.

One dual purpose vehicle is kept at a garage in Craven Arms for local convenience.

During 1961 these five vehicles made 3,250 journeys carrying 8,482 patients a total distance of 142,965 miles.

Arrangements for calling out ambulances are normally made through doctors and hospitals but in emergency calls from anyone are put through to the Central Ambulance Station and appropriate arrangements made.

Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care.

(a) All home nurses and midwives hold a small supply of minor articles of nursing equipment such as hot water bottles, air rings, bed pans and feeding cups, for loan to patients being nursed at home.

(b) The treatment of tuberculosis falls to Regional Hospital Boards to provide in the way of Sanatoria and Chest Clinics, but the preventive and after care side of the work is shared between the Hospital Boards and Local Health Authorities. The County Council for their share provide open-air Shelters where required. They also join with Regional Boards in making from time to time local arrangements for Mass Miniature Radiography Surveys, and through their Health Visitors undertake a considerable amount of follow-up work with patients. Extra nourishment may in necessitous cases be provided.

(c) Arrangements are made under this section for the convalescence of persons not requiring special medical or nursing care.

(d) Through their Mental Welfare Officers and Health Visitors the County Council are responsible for the supervision in their own homes of mentally handicapped persons and also for helping general medical practitioners to secure hospital treatment for those persons who become mentally unbalanced.

Domestic Help.

The County Council provides a fairly comprehensive Domestic Help Service through branch offices.

The greater part of this area is served from the Ludlow Home Help Office which is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. A small section in the north, however, is served from the Church Stretton Home Help Office which opens on Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons.

During the year ended 31st December, 1961, the services of the County Council's Home Helps directed from the Ludlow Office were made available in 70 homes in the Borough and Rural District. In 60 cases the help was provided for the benefit of aged and chronic sick persons, in seven cases help was needed on account of temporary illness and in a further three homes domiciliary confinements had occurred.

Hospital Service.

In addition to the Services provided by the County Council under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, the Hospital and Specialist Services provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board must be briefly mentioned.

The District is served principally by the hospitals under the No. 15 Hospital Management Committee centred at the Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury. The Ludlow and District Hospital and East Hamlet Hospital serve local needs and Specialist Clinics or Out-Patient Sessions are held at these hospitals as follows:-

Clinic or Out-Patient Session	East Hamlet Hospital	Ludlow & District Hospital	Consultant
Orthopaedic	2nd & 4th Mondays 1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.		
Obstetric & Gynaecological	-	Wednesdays 2 p.m.	Mr.S.Burke
Surgical	-	Wednesday fortnightly 9 a.m.	Mr.J.A.Baty
Medical	-	Mondays 2.30 p.m. Wednesday fortnightly 10 a.m.	Dr.A.W.J. Houghton. Dr.W.D. Wallace.
E.N.T.	-	Monday fortnightly 1.30 p.m.	Mr. E.N. Owen
Paediatric	-	Third Tuesday in month 2.0 p.m.	Dr. J.C. Macaulay.
Psychiatric	-	Thursdays 2.0 p.m.	Dr.M.J. Brookes.
Radio Therapy	-	1st Saturday in month 10.30 a.m.	Dr. E.J. Richardson.

A Chest Clinic is held on the third Tuesday in each month at 11.0 a.m. at the Child Welfare Centre, Dinham, Ludlow. Although this clinic is provided by the Regional Hospital Board it is for convenience held at the County Councils Centre.

Cases from the District are admitted to the Royal Salop Infirmary, The Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital and Copthorne Hospital, whilst a small number of Infectious Diseases requiring hospital care under a paediatrician are admitted to Monkmoor Children's Hospital.

Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory at the Royal Salop Infirmary is extensively used for the bacteriological examination of water, milk and ice-cream.

Chemical analyses of water samples and sewage effluents are made by the Public Analyst at Warrington.

Good Laboratory facilities are very necessary to the work of the Health Department, and I should like to express my thanks to Dr. A.C. Jones of the Shrewsbury Laboratory and his staff for their assistance, in particular perhaps for their invaluable advice when some bacteriological or epidemiological problem arises.

SECTION C.

1. Water Supply Scheme.

a) South Eastern Parishes Water Supply Scheme.

i) Contract II.

Work on this scheme which supplies the parishes of Richards Castle, Ludford, Ashford Carbonell and Ashford Bowdler was completed during the year.

ii) Contract III.

At the end of 1960 this contract had to be determined due to contractual difficulties, and another contractor commenced work in 1961 to finish off the outstanding work. During the year under review mains were laid in the Parishes of Boraston, Nash, Burford, Caynham, Coreley, Greete, Milson, Neen Sollars and Whitton and by the end of the year all mains were completed, leaving only the reservoir work outstanding. Work on the two reservoir sites at Lea Farm, Cleobury Mortimer and Prospect Place, Caynham was still progressing at December 31st, 1961.

b) Western Area Water Supply Scheme.

i) Contract 4.

After making comparatively slow progress during the early months of the year, progress improved through the year. Mains were laid in the parishes of Bromfield, Onibury, Stokesay and Stanton Lacy and the additional 60,000 gallon reinforced concrete reservoir at Whitcliffe was constructed, tested and accepted.

ii) Contract 5.

Work continued on the reservoir site during the year and was 75% completed in December. Work was completed on the mains in the Munslow, Diddlebury and Culmington areas and the rising main from Seifton Pumping Station site to the reservoir site was laid and tested. The work of transferring connections from the old Culmington Manor Estate Supply was commenced.

c) Joint high Level Water Supply Scheme.

A public local enquiry was held by the Minister into this scheme during the year.

The water supplies have proved to be generally satisfactory in quality and quantity. Generally sampling of raw water is not undertaken, but the treated supplies are sampled regularly by the Public Health department, details of which are given separately. There are no plumbo solvent supplies in the district. Details of the numbers of houses fed from public supplies are as given in the appendix hereto.

Drainage works have not made much progress. The Craven Arms Sewerage and Sewage Scheme is urgently required, and it is confidently hoped to have the scheme out to tender in 1962.

TOTALS OF HOUSES CONNECTED TO PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT.

No.	Parishes	Direct	Stand Pipes	Meters	Council House Supplies (Not public supplies)	Total
1.	Abdon	-	-	-	-	-
2.	Acton Scott	2	-	2	4	8
3.	Ashford Bowdler	12	-	5	-	17
4.	Ashford Carbonell	51	-	11	-	62
5.	Bitterley	56	2	5	-	63
6.	Boraston	31	-	15	-	46
7.	Bromfield	13	-	5	4	22
8.	Burford	106	-	3	-	109
9.	Caynham	231	10	20	-	261
10.	Clee St. Margaret	7	-	-	-	7
11.	Cleobury Mortimer	369	-	46	-	415
12.	Cold Weston	-	-	-	-	-
13.	Coreley	84	16	13	-	113
14.	Culmington	64	-	15	-	79
15.	Diddlebury	49	-	12	-	61
16.	East Hamlet	20	-	-	-	20
17.	Eaton-under-Heywood	13	2	7	-	22
18.	Greete	11	-	10	-	21
19.	Halford	39	-	4	-	43
20.	Heath	-	-	-	-	-
21.	Holdgate	-	-	-	-	-
22.	Hope Bagot	-	-	-	-	-
23.	Hope Bowdler	-	-	-	12	12
24.	Hopton Cangeford	-	-	-	-	-
25.	Hopton Wafers	19	-	4	-	23
26.	Little Stretton	3	-	4	-	7
27.	Loughton	-	-	-	-	-
28.	Ludford	65	-	10	-	75
29.	Milson	15	-	10	-	25
30.	Munslow	60	1	15	-	76
31.	Nash	32	2	6	-	40
32.	Neen Sollars	16	-	10	-	26
33.	Onibury	8	-	1	-	9
34.	Richards Castle(Salop)	47	-	18	-	65
35.	Rushbury	41	1	9	-	51
36.	Stanton Lacy	-	-	-	4	4
37.	Sibdon Carwood	5	-	4	-	9
38.	Silvington	-	-	-	-	-
39.	Stoke St. Milborough	-	-	-	4	4
40.	Stokesay	363	-	25	-	388
41.	Tugford	-	-	-	-	-
42.	Whitton	1	-	1	-	2
43.	Wheathill	-	-	-	-	-
44.	Wistanstow	11	-	-	4	15
45.	Woodhouse	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS		<u>1844</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>290</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>2200</u>

. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

(a) Water Supplies.

Purity of Supplies.

The undermentioned samples were taken for bacteriological examination from public supplies in the area.

Source	Total No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Birmingham Aqueduct	4	4	-
Bitterley	4	4	-
Burford	3	3	-
Clee Hill	5	5	-
Clee St. Margaret (Council houses.)	7	1	6
Clee St. Margaret - Well	5	3	2
Cleobury Mortimer	6	5	1
Coreley	7	6	1
Craven Arms	3	3	-
Culmington	4	3	1
Diddlebury	4	4	-
Hope Bowdler	4	3	1
Longville-in-the-Dale	3	3	-
Middleton	4	4	-
Munslow	4	4	-
Onibury	3	2	1
St. Milburgha's Well	8	7	1
Ticklerton	5	3	2
Wall-under-Heywood	3	3	-
Totals	86	70	16

In addition, the following samples were taken from a prospective public supply.

Source	No. of samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Rushbury (New bore)	3	0	3

The samples taken from the bore showed only slight pollution. It is possible that this will be cleared with further pumping.

Generally the public supplies were of satisfactory quality. The pollution at Clee St. Margaret was usually only slight. Remedial measures which were carried out were not entirely satisfactory. Fortunately, however, it will be possible to do away with this supply in the fairly near future when mains come to the area. The same applies to Ticklerton where the supply will be incorporated in the Council's comprehensive scheme.

Of eighty-four samples taken from private supplies only fourteen were satisfactory. This indicates the generally unsatisfactory state of private supplies in the area.

Much progress was made on the Western Area and South Eastern Parishes Water Supply Schemes during the year. As a result many more houses now have mains water piped inside.

(b) Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Ashford Carbonell.

During the year two more closets were converted to water closets with the Council's grant aid (£25 per conversion). Others were

converted without grant. Now only a few closets remain to be dealt with. In one case the owner/occupier is aged and in ill health; in another an improvement grant scheme is being considered.

The Shropshire Education Authority have recently prepared a scheme for the conversion of closets at the village school. The work will be carried out shortly.

Clee Hill.

A further nine closets were converted during the year with grant aid. As at Ashford others were converted without grant. Some owners have submitted improvement grant schemes which have included conversions. Some closets still remain to be converted and further work will be done this year.

Private Drainage.

Little trouble was caused by private drainage during the year; but this does not mean that all is satisfactory. However, at two schools and a nursing home there was some nuisance. This is a fairly common trouble these days. It arises usually from a small and out of date disposal plant, originally designed for a small number of persons, being grossly overloaded with altered use. Allied to this is often lack of maintenance. On occasions nothing is done until something goes wrong. In the cases mentioned the owners have been recommended to reconstruct their plants.

Where there is a discharge to a river some control will in due course be exercised under the Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1961.

(c) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

A new collection system was started in January, 1961 using two vehicles; the existing 1956 Austin/Eagle Compressmore and a new Shelvoke and Drewry Fore and Aft Tipper with Powerpress. The new service provided for the following collections; Cleobury Mortimer and Craven Arms four collections every five weeks and the rest of the district one collection every fortnight.

A survey was carried out in the Summer. As a result of this survey it was found possible to alter and improve the service in the following way.

- (1) Cleobury Mortimer and Craven Arms - Weekly collection.
- (2) Elsewhere - Fortnightly collection.
- (3) All collections on the same day of the week throughout.
- (4) Reduction from 6 days to 5 days week with alteration of many rounds to give a reduced overall mileage with consequent saving in cost.
- (5) Alteration of rounds to cut out overtime working.

Following approval by the Public Health Committee the new service was started early in September. It has been working satisfactorily and is a great improvement on the previous arrangements.

Five tips are used for refuse disposal. They are situated at Cleobury Mortimer, West Knowle near Craven Arms, Onibury Lane, Westhope and Woofferton.

Early in 1961 the Council received notice to quit the Woofferton Tip. However, following negotiations, the notice was not enforced and the Council have now purchased the land.

Levelling and covering of refuse has been carried out at all the tips during the year. The material most used for covering has been quarry waste from Clee Hill. In addition free covering material, such as soil from road widening schemes, has sometimes been available from

the Salop County Council and from contractors. As spreading of covering material is normally done by hand it is not easy to accept large quantities at one time.

Levelling with a bulldozer has been carried out as necessary. For this purpose a machine has been hired for short periods. If the Council owned a tractor/dozer, tip maintenance could be carried out more effectively. A suitable secondhand machine of this sort would cost about £750.

Regular treatments have been carried out to control rats, and during the Summer, flies. Rat and fly control would be made easier by more 'controlled' tipping such as would be possible with the use of a bulldozer.

Towards the end of the year many mechanical and electrical troubles were experienced with the Austin/Eagle vehicle. From our recent experience with this vehicle, which is now in its sixth year, it is considered that it should be replaced by a new one as soon as possible.

The Shelvoke and Drewry machine has now been in use just over a year. It has given good trouble-free service. One excellent feature of this machine is that it is fully guaranteed (except for the engine) for three years. During this period the makers engineer from their Birmingham depot makes regular inspections. He then makes any replacements and carries out any routine adjustments which are beyond the capability of the driver.

(d) Rodent Control.

The rodent control service was maintained as in previous years. In the Ludlow Rural District 70 contracts were held on the 31st December, 1961. The total value of these contracts was £548. This is the highest figure for 5 years. About a quarter of the area, in the South East and North West, was surveyed during the year. Several severe infestations were found. These were dealt with promptly and spread of vermin prevented.

Some new contracts were signed towards the end of the year. This was due to a private contractor going out of business. Eight single treatments were carried out. The value of these treatments was £27.

In addition to working in the Rural District the operative, Mr. F. Mear, has also done work in the Church Stretton Urban District. This arrangement has now been in force for many years. One week has been worked there every two months. This service cost the Urban District Council £114 in 1961.

(e) Factories and Workshops.

There are 79 factories in the district. Of these, 67 are factories with mechanical power and 12 without mechanical power. Twenty-nine visits were made during the year and three contraventions were found.

(f) Inspections by the Public Health Inspectors.

Meat inspection	794
Refuse collection and disposal	644
Housing (Public Health & Housing Acts)	293
Drainage and closet conversions	249
Water supplies	220
Food premises and food inspection	171
House allocation	105
Moveable dwellings	98
Infectious diseases	14
Factories and workshops	29
Miscellaneous	97
Total	<u>2714</u>

In addition to this 1003 visits were made for the Church Stretton Urban District Council.

Number of informal notices served	118
Number of statutory notices served	NIL

(There were, of course, many statutory notices served under the Housing Acts. Particulars of these are given on Sheet 17.) Most of the notices, except those served late in the year, were complied with by 31st December, 1961.

3. Housing.

(A) Number of inhabitable houses, including Council Houses and business premises, with living accommodation as at 1st January, 1961. 4317

Additions.

Number of houses constructed during 1961.

(a) Council Houses.....	0
(b) Private houses.....	25

Number of additional houses provided by the conversion of older houses	2
--	---

Number of houses brought back into use as a result of complying with undertakings	<u>4</u>
	4348

Deductions.

Number of houses (1) Closed.	25
(2) Demolished	3

Number of inhabitable houses, including Council houses and business premises with living accommodation, as at 31st December, 1961.	<u>4320</u>
--	-------------

Miscellaneous Details.

(a) Number of Council houses as at 31st December, 1961.	459
(b) Number of applications for Council houses as at 31st December, 1961.	218
(c) Number of defective houses made fit as a result of informal action under the Public Health and Housing Acts.	25

(B) House Allocation.

House allocation work was continued during the year. One hundred and five visits were made to interview housing applicants and investigate their living conditions. Many applicants live outside the Rural District. These persons were visited by officers of other Authorities.

During the year 17 dwellings were allocated by the Tenancies Committee. These dwellings had become vacant as a result of removals. Some difficulty was experienced in finding new tenants for a vacancy at Richards Castle and also at Abdon. In addition to allocating the houses mentioned above the Committee also agreed several transfers. The waiting list was reviewed at the end of the year. The following figures resulted.

Number of applications for houses	157
Number of applications for old peoples dwellings	<u>61</u>
Total.....	<u>218</u>

These figures show that 27% of the applications are for old peoples dwellings; a substantial proportion. There is no doubt that the

demand, and the need, for old peoples dwellings is increasing and will still further increase as the years pass. There will also be a need for many houses and old peoples dwellings to assist in getting rid of the unfit houses in the district; houses which require demolition or closure. This will apply whether the Council use the direct method of moving people from the unfit houses to new, or the indirect method of moving people from sub-standard houses to new and people from the condemned houses to the sub-standard.

Housing Conditions.

In the recently published 1960 Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health, criticism was made of general housing and sanitary conditions in the rural areas of Shropshire. These comments apply to this district in common with others. To repeat some figures given in my last Annual Report produced after the completion of the Housing Survey. Of 608 houses surveyed 185 required demolition or closure. Further consideration was needed in another 62 cases if repairs and improvements were not carried out. Four hundred and ninety three houses had unsatisfactory drainage or no drainage at all. i.e. Nearly five-sixths. Only about one-third (217) had a water supply piped into the house. This Council has made excellent progress latterly in the supply of mains water. But it will only be economically possible to provide sewerage schemes in the villages. Therefore, as regards drainage, conditions at most of the 493 houses mentioned are not likely to be improved.

Of course there are many other houses in the district with unsatisfactory drainage; certainly a very great many with drainage quite incapable of coping satisfactorily with the discharge from baths and water closets. This means that, even with mains water available, many houses will not be able to have water closets and baths, unless they also have new drainage schemes.

In the past, baths and water closets have been regarded as luxuries; now they are coming to be regarded by most people as essentials. It is possible that in the not too distant future they may be included by the Government as essential parts of the standard for a fit house.

Improvements to housing, drainage and sewerage usually follow on naturally after the provision of mains water. It is hoped that this will prove to be the position in this district.

(C) Action under the Housing Acts.

The following is a summary of statutory action taken during the year regarding unfit houses.

Number of houses closed under the terms of Closing Orders	5
Number of houses closed under the terms of Undertakings given by owners	18
Number of houses demolished	6
Number of houses made fit and undertakings or orders revoked	4
Number of Demolition Orders changed to Closing Orders	2

Informal Action.

Number of houses made fit as a result of Informal Action	25
--	----

(D) Moveable Dwellings.

At 31st December, 1961 there were 90 licensed caravans on sites in the district. In all 22 licences were issued covering 37 residential and 243 holiday caravans. Many of the licences were issued subject to conditions; principally as to carrying out works to give compliance with the Council's standards. With new sites a usual condition is that caravans are not to be used on the site until the necessary works are completed. Most of the sites are for holiday and weekend use. It is probable that, with the vast

number of caravans being produced and the desire on the part of town dwellers to come to the country, many more caravans will come to the district over the next few years.

There appears to be considerable ignorance among weekend users about the caravan licensing laws. Unless the caravan is placed on a licensed site, much work for the public health inspectors is entailed in finding out about them. A point of importance here is that it is the occupier of the land and not the occupier of the caravan who has to obtain a licence.

The largest site being developed is that at Mawley, near Cleobury Mortimer, where the Council granted a licence for 18 residential and 132 holiday caravans. Work is proceeding on this site and it is understood that the owner hopes to have it in use for the 1962 season.

4. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Meat Inspection.

During the year one slaughterhouse - that at Cleobury Mortimer - was closed voluntarily by the owner. This left only two in use. The remaining small slaughterhouse at Munslow went out of use at the end of the year when the new construction regulations came fully into effect.

Therefore, for 1962, the only slaughterhouse in the district will be the Shropshire Fatstock Society Abattoir at Craven Arms.

The number of animals slaughtered and inspected during the year was 91,786. This figure is approximately the same as for 1960. It would seem that throughput at the Craven Arms Abattoir has now reached its peak unless extensive alterations and extensions are carried out.

Such extensions are planned. If they are to be carried out, and throughput thereby tremendously increased as forecast by the Society, thought will soon have to be given to the appointment of another meat inspector.

Sunday work continued during most of the year. This was despite assurances by the Society that it would cease when the chill room and deep freeze came into use. Occasionally slaughtering commenced at midnight on Saturday and continued until 1.0 p.m. on Sunday. On other occasions slaughtering has continued until well into the afternoon on both Saturdays and Sundays.

In all a considerable time was spent by the three additional inspectors on this extra work of safeguarding the public's meat supply. This work is, I am sure, appreciated by the Council.

Mr. Banks, who had carried out full time meat inspection since 1957, was replaced by Mr. Walters in April. Altogether Mr. Banks did excellent work in his $3\frac{1}{2}$ years service at the Abattoir. He had to do a lot of work outside normal hours; often at considerable personal inconvenience. I would like to give him my thanks for all he did.

Late in the year the Council were able to provide a house at Craven Arms for the new inspector, Mr. Walters. There is a telephone at the house. This has somewhat eased the problem of coping with inspection at irregular hours.

Full time meat inspection appeals only to a minority of inspectors. Mr. Walters is such a one and has settled down well in his new job.

As is known there is a special Government grant for the inspection of so called "export" meat, i.e. meat going out of the district. This is paid by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. During the financial year 1960-61 this, for the first time, amounted to over £1,000. It is likely that this grant arrangement will, in the fairly

near future, be replaced by a system under which the Council will be able to charge the slaughterhouse owners a fee for every animal inspected.

It is understood that the details of this new scheme, and other matters dealing with meat inspection, are being discussed by the Ministry with various interested bodies at the present time.

It will be remembered that in 1960, as a result of strong pressure from the Council, improved arrangements were made at the Craven Arms Abattoir for the storage and removal of slaughterhouse waste. At that time a side loading refuse collection vehicle was brought into use.

In 1961 these improved arrangements were scrapped. It is understood that this was done largely because the waste was sent to another disposal plant where the refuse collection vehicle could not be conveniently emptied.

The present arrangements are that the waste is stored in covered bins similar to household refuse bins. These bins are transported by lorry to the disposal works. Large numbers of small bins are not so easily cleansed and sterilised as one large purpose made container. Already trouble has developed over failure to cleanse and this matter is being watched carefully.

Animals Slaughtered & Carcasses Inspected in 1961.

	Cattle (Excluding Cows).	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Totals
Numbers killed	6283	1819	6059	54580	23045	91786
Numbers inspected	6283	1819	6059	54580	23045	91786

All diseases except
Tuberculosis & Cysticercus
Bovis.

Whole carcasses condemned	11	15	56	205	23	
Organs or parts condemned	996	716	14	795	1241	
Percentage affected	16.03	40.19	1.15	1.83	5.48	

Tuberculosis Only.

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	2	
Organs or parts condemned	3	1	-	-	429	
Percentage affected	0.05	0.06	-	-	1.87	

Cysticercus Bovis Only.

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	
Organs or parts condemned	22	3	-	-	-	
Percentage affected	0.35	0.16	-	-	-	

Weight of meat condemned:

1. On account of Tuberculosis	5145 lbs.	
2. On account of Cysticercus Bovis	1580 lbs.	
3. On account of other diseases	55774 lbs.	
	62499 lbs.	
= 27 Tons, 18 Cwts., 3 lbs.	Total number of Animals killed 91,786	

Tuberculosis.

The percentage of animals affected with tuberculosis has again decreased. The weight of meat condemned for this disease was, in 1961, only about 1/12th of the total as compared with 1/3rd six years ago.

Cysticercus Bovis.

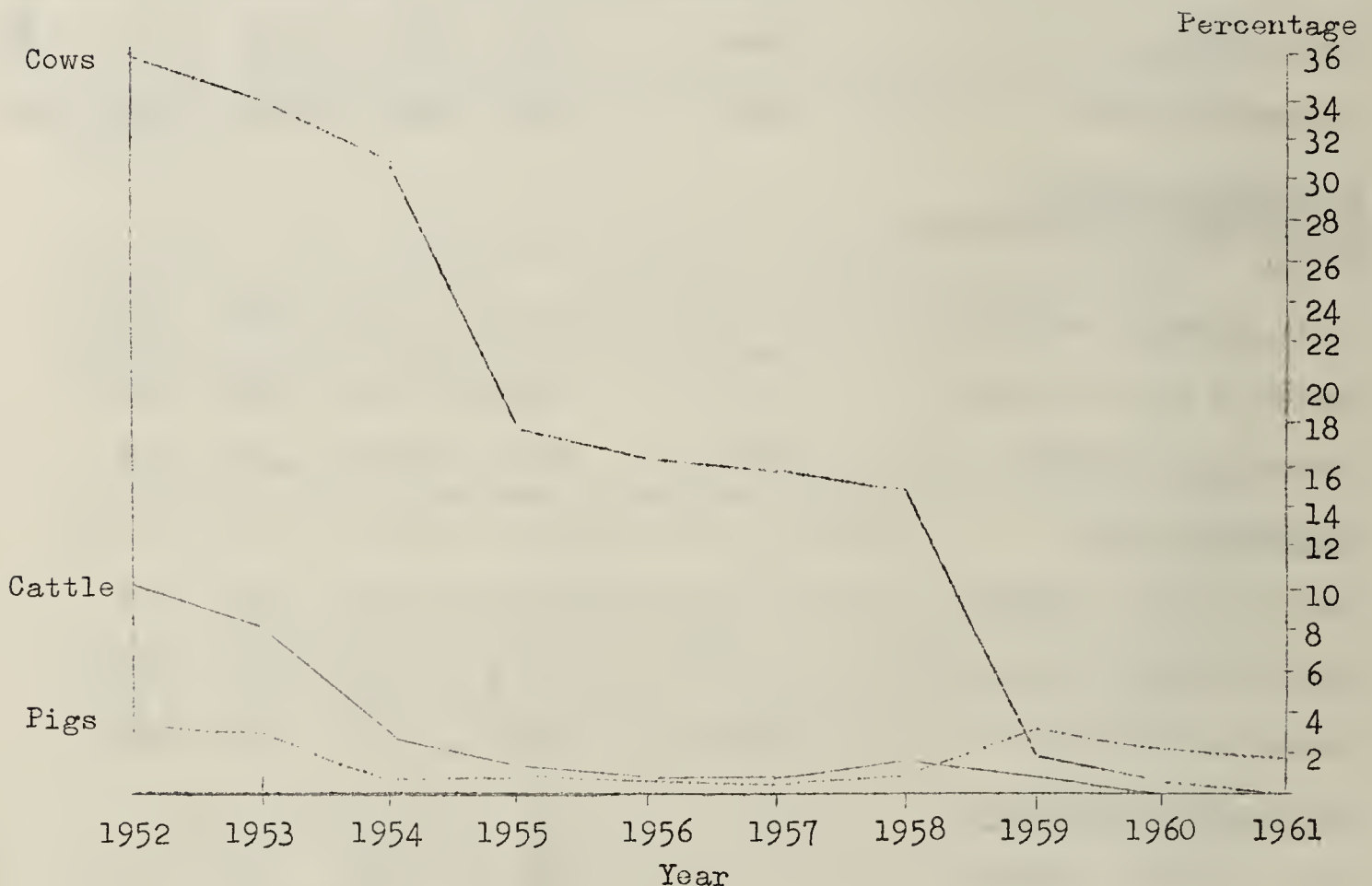
There is very little change in the number of cases and percentage of animals affected as compared with 1960.

The accompanying graph and table give the figures. There were 25 cases in all. The percentages of animals affected were 0.16 in the case of cows and 0.35 for cattle other than cows. These figures are similar to those of the country as a whole.

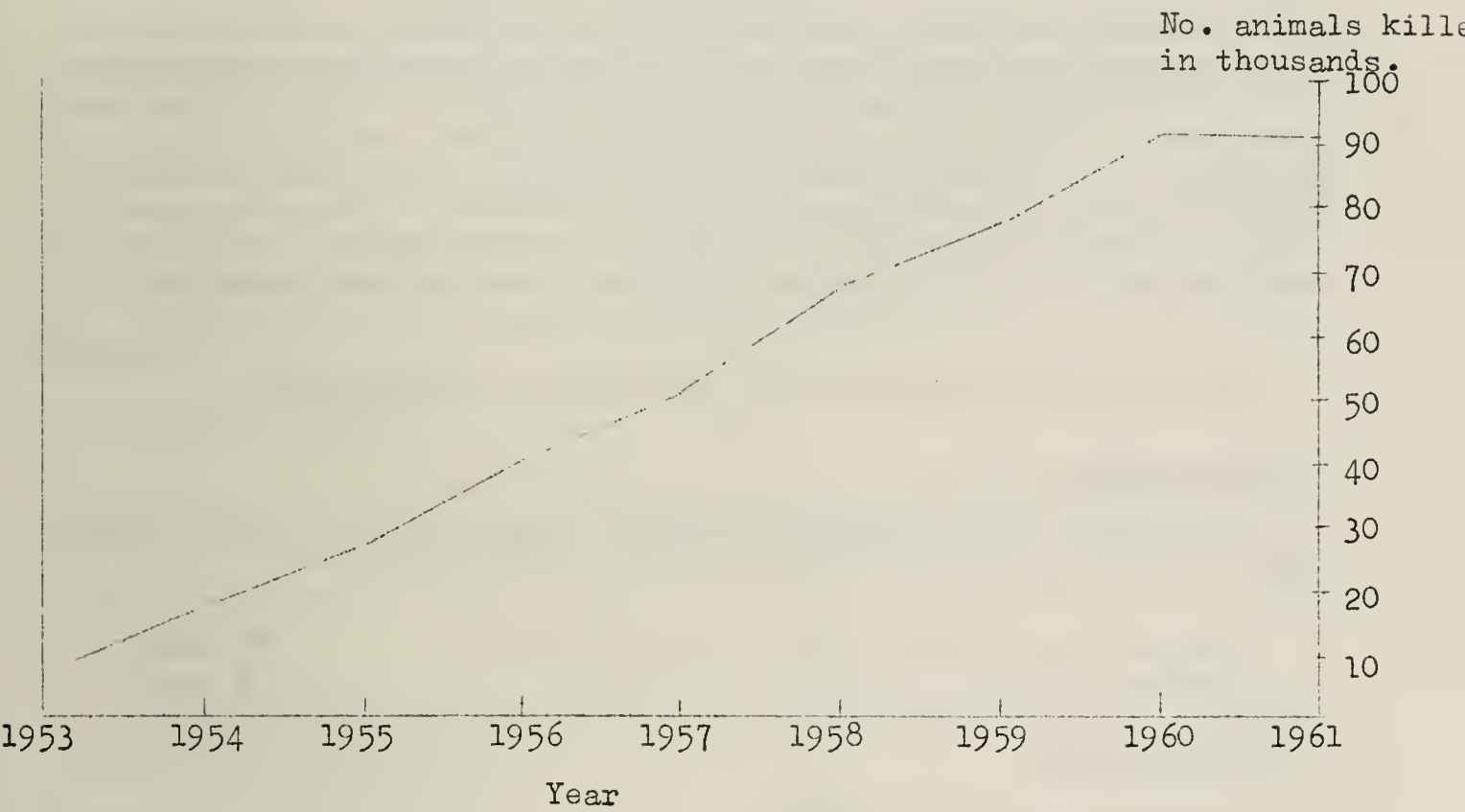
Condemned Meat.

Over the past six years the weight of meat condemned per animal inspected has dropped from 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. to $\frac{5}{8}$ lbs. It is considered that this change is because of (a) improved animal health and, in particular, the virtual elimination of tuberculosis and, (b) the slaughtering, latterly, of many more sheep which are relatively more disease free.

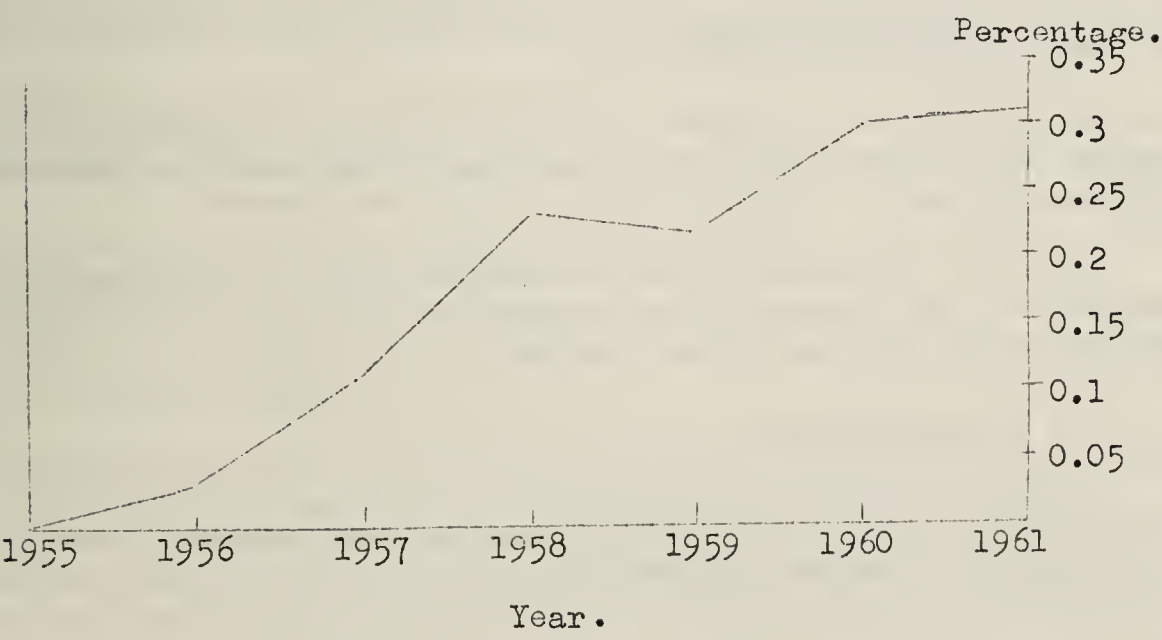
Graph showing incidence of Tuberculosis in cows, cattle (excluding cows) and pigs over the past ten years.



Graph showing increase in slaughtering in the district over the past nine years.



Graph showing incidence of Cysticercus Bovis in cattle, including cows, over the past seven years.



(b) Poultry & Turkey Inspection.

The work of rearing, slaughtering and dressing poultry and turkeys at the two large depots at The Grove continued to increase during the year. Over 100,000 birds are now slaughtered each week and over 300 people (excluding office staff) are employed. These persons are mainly on the dressing and packing lines.

One or more visits a week are made for general inspection purposes and to inspect detained carcasses. The present inspection arrangements as for the country as a whole, are far from ideal. However, they are considered to be the only practicable arrangements possible at the present time. The arrangements are on the lines recommended recently by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. It is hoped to devote more time to this work in future. Fortunately the firms are co-operative and ask for special visits on occasions when there is doubt as to the quality of batches of birds arriving for slaughter.

During the year approximately 3580 birds were condemned.

(c) Other Foods.

Other foods were inspected chiefly in retail shops. Condemnations were:-

General tinned foods (meat, fish and fruit)	63 tins
Kippers	9 stones

(d) Food Hygiene.

(1) Food Hygiene Regulations.

One hundred and seventy one visits were made to food premises during the year. It was found that more premises now comply with the Regulations in all respects. Altogether a very worthwhile, although in some cases slow, improvement has been brought about at the food premises in the district since the Regulations were introduced in 1955. So far it has not been possible to carry out regular (say twice yearly) inspections of all premises. It is hoped to improve on this in 1962.

One Court case was taken by the Salop County Council. A local baker was prosecuted for selling, in the Bridgnorth Rural District, a loaf of bread containing a mouse.

On visiting it was found that the flour store had not been properly proofed against rats and mice; also that flour used for baking was not being sieved. Sieving is not a legal requirement.

The flour store has already been made good. But unless sieving is carried out, and this has been recommended, there is no certainty that the same thing will not happen again.

(2) Food Poisoning.

Only one case of food poisoning was notified during the year. At first this appeared to have been caused by food eaten at a cafe outside the district. Investigations were carried out by the public health inspector of that district but no proof was obtained that this was so.

(3) Supervision of Milk Supply.

Only the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations are now administered by this Council. Since the beginning of the year the Salop County Council has been the licensing authority for special designations of milk.

The regulations mentioned above control only the sale of undesignated milk by retailers other than producer retailers. Little work is now involved.

(4) Ice Cream.

The number of premises registered for the sale of ice-cream was at 31st December, 1961, 46. The person who used to manufacture ice-cream at Craven Arms has moved to Church Stretton. As a result of this there are now no manufacturers in the district.

All the ice cream sold is made by large producers. Most of them are of national repute and the ice-cream is nearly all prepacked. Supervision is maintained to ensure proper storage arrangements in refrigerators.

5. General.

(a) Knackers Yards.

Regular visits have been paid to the two knackers yards in the district. Conditions have been found to be generally satisfactory following rebuilding of the premises a few years ago. Minor matters requiring attention were speedily put right by the owners when they were approached.

One case of anthrax occurred at the Culmington Yard. Immediate disinfection was carried out and the workers vaccinated to prevent spread of the disease.

(b) Air Pollution.

Little work is necessary in this district about air pollution.

However, during the year two complaints were received about discharges of smoke from factories at Burford. It was found that considerable quantities of waste materials were being burned and causing nuisance to people living nearby.

These matters were put right.

(c) National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949.

Several visits were made during the year about obstructed footpaths and misuse of footpaths and bridleways. Informal action brought about a satisfactory settlement in some cases.

On occasions these jealously guarded rights of way have caused much friction and bad feeling between neighbours.

In such cases the public health inspectors have sometimes been able to act as arbitrators.

(d) Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.

Little work has been done under this Act during the year. There are over 600 farms or agricultural holdings in the district. At present Local Authorities are responsible only for ensuring that proper lavatories are available, either on the farm, or at the workers homes if they are within reasonable distance. Responsibility for the provision of washing arrangements rests with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The opinion is now held by many people that it would be better if these two matters, which would appear to be allied, were dealt with by one body; either the Local Authority or the Ministry.

(e) New Legislation.

Below is a summary of new Acts which came into force during the year and which have not been mentioned elsewhere in this report.

Public Health Act, 1961.

This Act amends and alters certain provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936. It is felt by many that it might have been better if the new Act had been incorporated with the main Act of 1936 to form one comprehensive measure. None of the new provisions is of outstanding importance; although one which may affect this Council from time to time is that which makes farm drainage a "trade effluent".

Housing Act, 1961.

In this Act a provision of importance, so far as this department is concerned, is the power given to a Local Authority under certain circumstances to revoke a Demolition Order and substitute a Closing Order. This power has already been used on several occasions.

Factories Act, 1961.

This Act repealed previous Acts and is mainly a consolidating measure.

(f) Youth Hostels.

There are three youth hostels in the district owned and controlled by the Youth Hostels Association. They are situated at Ludford, Wheathill and Wilderhope and are well patronised by young people wishing to explore the delightful countryside of South Shropshire. General inspections are made from time to time.

In 1960 complaints of gross overcrowding in the dormitories at the Ludford Hostel were received. On investigation it was found that these complaints were justified; during the height of the Summer season far too many young people were accepted in an endeavour to meet the heavy demand.

The matter was taken up with the Association and a meeting with the Regional Secretary arranged. The Association was most co-operative and the satisfactory outcome was that in 1961 a fine new dormitory was erected to supplement the existing ones.

General improvements have also been made at the hostels in keeping with the Food Regulations.

(g) Church Stretton Urban District Council.

As the Committee is aware the Department has provided public health service and a worthwhile part of the routine surveyors service for the Church Stretton Urban District Council during 1961. One inspector has been engaged almost fulltime at Church Stretton since the middle of February. The work was carried out by Mr. L.D. Cowell for the first eight months and latterly by Mr. G.S. Banks. This has meant that, although an extra inspector was appointed in the Spring, the establishment available to carry out work in the Rural District has not increased. In fact from the middle of February to the middle of April, when Mr. Walters commenced duties, the establishment was one short.

In conclusion, I would like to express my thanks to all the staff and workmen of my Department for the work they have carried out during the year. They have all worked loyally and well as a small happy team.

SECTION D.

Prevalence of Infectious Disease.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following cases were notified during the year ended 31st December, 1961:-

Scarlet Fever	- 7	Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	- 5
Measles	- 296	Tuberculosis (Non-Respiratory)	- -
Whooping Cough	- 11	Dysentery	- 1
Acute Pneumonia	- 9	Erysipelas	- -
Food Poisoning	- 1		

The total number of notifications received was 330 compared with a total of 65 during 1960, the increase being attributable to the biennial measles epidemic.

Diphtheria.

There have been no cases of this condition in the District during the last eighteen years.

Poliomyelitis.

No cases of Poliomyelitis were reported.

Tuberculosis.

Five cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis and no cases of Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified during the year, and there was one death from the respiratory disease.

Particulars of the 59 cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register on 31st December, 1961 are as follows:-

	<u>Respiratory Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis</u>
Male	21	9
Female	<u>20</u>	<u>9</u>
Total.....	<u><u>41</u></u>	<u><u>18</u></u>

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1961.

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Diseases of Heart & Circulatory System	27	22	49
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	9	18	27
Malignant Diseases	16	12	28
Bronchitis	3	1	4
Pneumonia	1	3	4
Diabetes	-	-	-
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-	1
All other Accidents	3	3	6
Suicide	1	1	2
Homicide & Operations of War	-	-	-
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	-	1
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	-	-	-
All other causes	16	6	22
Total.....	<u><u>78</u></u>	<u><u>66</u></u>	<u><u>144</u></u>

Deaths from Cancer (all forms):-

	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 Population</u>
Ludlow Rural District	28	2.09
County of Salop	557	1.844

Of the 28 deaths from cancer 5 males died of cancer of the Lung or Bronchus. Thus 17.8% of cancer deaths were due to this form, representing a death rate of 0.37 per 1000 population.

APPENDIX.

Factories Act, 1937 to 1959.

1. Inspections for purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	67	25	3	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
Total	79	29	3	-

Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature(S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.5)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to outworkers)	-	-	-	-	-
Total.....	3	2	-	-	-

